

Office support and technical assistance to regional health units; and assists in developing policies and procedures related to health services for children in custody.

Provider Services

The Division of Provider Services furnishes the technical and programmatic support for residential and non-custodial contracts. The Department of Children's Services contracts for approximately 70% of services provided to youth and families through a network of providers. Each year a regional needs assessment assists the Department in making decisions regarding the types of services, number of services, and outcomes or results expected of contractors. The Department of Children's Services coordinates ongoing partnership events with providers, committees, Juvenile Courts, advocates, families, and children. The Department has approximately \$145 million in residential service contracts throughout the State of Tennessee.

Approximately half of the out-of-home contracts are Continuum of Care contracts. This managed care concept allows providers to combine previously fragmented services, and to customize services delivery to meet the individual needs of family and children. It also allows for flexibility in contracts, as well as for providers to work intensively with families toward permanency and reunification where possible.

The Division of Provider Services also coordinates, provides assistance and technical support, monitors, and assures the delivery of non-residential/non-custodial services. These services include coordination with other departments on programs such as Family Resource Centers, the Governor's Prevention Initiative, day care for at-risk families and children, and child health and adolescent development programs. Additional programs providing services to communities, children, and families include Juvenile Educational Academies, Juvenile Court programs, Home Ties, Community Intervention Programs, child sex abuse intervention programs, and other prevention programs for families and youth at high risk of entering state custody. In 1998, the Department piloted a system combining fragmented intervention contracts into a Non-Custodial Network. This new program, operated by Child and Family Services